

Appl. No. : 09/811,978
Filed : March 19, 2001

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed September 22, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments. As a result of the amendments listed above, Claims 10 and 21 remain pending, Claim 10 having been amended. Claims 1-9 and 17-20 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 11-16 were canceled by a prior amendment. New Claims 22-34 have been added.

In the changes made by the current amendment, ~~deletions are shown by strikethrough~~, and additions are underlined.

Rejected Claims Have Been Canceled, Without Prejudice Or Disclaimer

Claims 1-9 and 17-20 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or § 103(a) in view of one or more of Bueley, Fall et al. or Kofstad. Although Applicants maintain that Claims 1-9 and 17-20 are allowable over the cited references, these claims have been canceled in an effort to expedite allowance of the present application. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue such claims, or similar claims, at a later date through continuation practice. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 1-9 and 17-20 is now moot.

Claim 10 Has Been Amended To Correct Typographical Error

Allowed Claim 10 has been amended to correct a typographical error in the claim as filed. Specifically, the last line of Claim 10 has been amended to replace "fist position" with the correct recitation of "first position." Thus, the scope of the claim has not been altered. Applicants submit that amended Claim 10 is substantially identical to the claim as filed and as published.

New Claims 22-34 Have Been Added

New Claims 22-34 have been added and are fully supported by the application as filed. Consideration and allowance of Claims 22-34 is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-26 depend, either directly or indirectly, on allowed Claim 10. Claims 22-26 are allowable not only because they depend from an allowable claim, but upon their own merit as well.

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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney, Edward A. Schlatter at (949) 721-2821 (direct line), to resolve such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: March 22, 2005

By: 

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